

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 21-0131
Client's Docket No. LIN367

APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **RAYMOND A. RUSCITO, SR.**, a citizen of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful **DECK COVERING APPARATUS** of which the following is a specification:



DECK COVERING APPARATUS

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

10

The present invention relates to movable shutters and awnings and more particularly pertains to a new deck covering apparatus for selectively covering a portion of a deck from the elements.

15 Description of the Prior Art

The use of movable shutters and awnings is known in the prior art. U.S. Patent No. 4,301,851 describes a system for having an awning move to form a shutter over a door. Another type of 20 movable shutters and awnings is U.S. Patent No. 4,616,451 having a plurality of roofing units positioned in an overlapping arrangement for extending outwardly from a building to cover a porch or deck.

25 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new deck covering apparatus that allows a user to selectively cover a portion of a deck.

Even still another object of the present invention is to provide a new deck covering apparatus that permits separate sections of a deck to be covered at the same time.

5

To this end, the present invention generally comprises a pair of support assemblies each having a base portion and a rail member. The base portion is designed for coupling to a support structure. The rail member is coupled to the base portion whereby the base portion of each of the support assemblies is designed for supporting the rail member of an associated one of the support assemblies in a spaced relationship above the deck. Each of a plurality of panel assemblies is slidably coupled to the rail member of each of the support assemblies whereby each of the panel assemblies is positioned between the support assemblies. Each of the panel assemblies is slidably positionable along a length of the rail member of each of the support assemblies whereby each of the panel assemblies are designed for covering a portion of the deck from the elements.

10
15
20

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

The objects of the invention, along with the various features 30 of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than
5 those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is
given to the following detailed description thereof. Such
description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a top view of a new deck covering apparatus
10 according to the present invention showing a single panel assembly.

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of the present invention
taken along line 2-2 of Figure 1.

15 Figure 3 is a side view of a pair of panel assemblies of the
present invention.

Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view of one of the panel
assemblies of the present invention.

20 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to
Figures 1 through 4 thereof, a new deck covering apparatus
25 embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and
generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 4, the deck covering
apparatus 10 generally comprises a pair of support assemblies 11
30 each having a base portion 12 and a rail member 13. The base
portion 12 is designed for coupling to a support structure. The rail
member 13 is coupled to the base portion 12 whereby the base
portion 12 of each of the support assemblies 11 is designed for

supporting the rail member 13 of an associated one of the support assemblies 11 in a spaced relationship above the deck.

Each of a plurality of panel assemblies 14 is slidably coupled
5 to the rail member 13 of each of the support assemblies 11 whereby
each of the panel assemblies 14 is positioned between the support
assemblies 11. Each of the panel assemblies 14 is slidably
positionable along a length of the rail member 13 of each of the
support assemblies 11 whereby each of the panel assemblies 14 are
10 designed for covering a portion of the deck from the elements.

Each of the panel assemblies 14 has frame member 15. The
frame member 15 provides structural support for the panel
assembly. The frame member 15 of each of the panel assemblies 14
15 has a pair of side portions 16 and a pair of end portions 17.

Each of the panel assemblies 14 has a plurality of roller
members 18. Each of the roller members 18 is coupled to one of
the side portions 16 of the frame member 15 whereby each of the
20 roller members 18 engages the rail member 13 of one of the support
assemblies 11. Each of the roller members 18 is for facilitating
sliding of an associated one of the panel assemblies 14 along the
support assemblies 11.

25 Each of the roller members 18 has a wheel 19 and an axle 20.
The axle 20 of each of the roller members 18 is couple to one of the
side portions 16 of the frame member 15. The wheel 19 is rotatably
coupled to a free end 21 of the axle 20 of the associated one of the
roller members 18 whereby the wheel 19 is designed for rotationally

engaging the rail member 13 of one of the supporting members for facilitating positioning of the panel assembly.

- The panel assembly has a plurality of sleeve members 22.
- 5 Each of the sleeve members 22 is positioned in one of the side portions 16 of the frame member 15 of one of the panel assemblies 14. Each of the sleeve members 22 receives the axle 20 of one of the roller members 18. Each of the sleeve members 22 is for inhibiting the axle 20 of the associated one of the roller members
- 10 18 from wearing on the associated one of the side portions 16 of the frame member 15. Each of the sleeve portions of each of the panel assemblies 14 is positioned at an acute angle, approximately 10 degrees, to a bottom face 23 of the associated one of the side portions 16 of the frame member 15 for more evenly distributing a
- 15 weight of the associated one of the panel assemblies 14 over a length of the axle 20 of each of the roller members 18.

- Each of the panel assemblies 14 has a cover member 24. The cover member 24 is coupled to the frame member 15 of the associated one of the panel members whereby the frame member 15 is for supporting the cover member 24. The cover member 24 is designed for directing the elements off of a portion of the deck covered by the panel assembly. The cover member 24 of each of the panel assemblies 14 may be transparent to allow light through while keeping rain off of the deck or colored to shade the deck as well prevent rain from getting onto the deck. The cover member 24 of each of the panel assemblies 14 has an overhang 25. The overhang 25 extends from one of the side portions 16 of the frame member 15 whereby the overhang 25 of the cover member 24 is designed for being positioned opposite the building for directing rain away from

the deck. The cover member 24 of each of the panel assemblies 14 has an extension portion 26. The extension portion 26 extends from one of the edge portions of the frame member 15 of the associated one of the panel assemblies 14. The extension portion 26 of the 5 cover member 24 is for extending over the cover member 24 of an adjacent one of the panel assemblies 14 for preventing rain from entering between the panel assemblies 14 when the panel assemblies 14 are positioned adjacent to each other.

10 In use, the user secures one of the support assemblies 11 to the building above the deck and the other of the support assemblies 11 in a spaced relation ship from the deck opposite the building. The roller members 18 of the panel assemblies 14 are then slid into the rail member 13s of the support assemblies 11 so that the panel 15 assemblies 14 are positioned above the deck. The user can then push the panel assemblies 14 along the support assemblies 11 to position the panel assemblies 14 over a desired portion of the deck.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized 20 that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and 25 described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of 30 the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction

and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.